

REMARKS

Claim Rejections 35 U.S.C. § 102 (b)/(e)

Claims 14-17

The Examiner has rejected claims 14-17 under 35 U.S.C. § 102 (b) as being anticipated by Casson et al. (US 5,261,593).

The Examiner has rejected claims 14-17 under 35 U.S.C. § 102 (b) as being anticipated by Sweitzer et al. (US 5,615,477).

The Examiner has rejected claims 14-17 under 35 U.S.C. § 102 (b) as being anticipated by Koopman et al. (US 5,992,729).

The Examiner has rejected claims 14-17 under 35 U.S.C. § 102 (e) as being anticipated by Lin et al. (US 6,548,393).

Applicants respectfully disagree with the Examiner. Applicants have amended claims 14 and 16. Support is provided by paragraphs [0026], [0033] - [0036] in the specification.

Claim 14, as amended, claims a self-aligned mechanical joint exposed to microwave energy (180) including: a bump (155) on a die (100); and a solder (160) on a substrate (170) wherein the solder reflows by indirect heat through conduction from the bump upon absorption of the microwave energy by the die. See Figure 2a. Another embodiment of the present invention includes a mechanical joint (227) that comprises a bump (157) and a solder (167). See Figure 3.

None of the 4 references cited by the Examiner teaches a self-aligned mechanical joint exposed to microwave energy. Thus, none of the 4 references cited by the Examiner teaches each and every element of Applicants' invention, as

claimed in claim 14, as amended. Consequently, none of the 4 references anticipates Applicants' invention.

Claims 15 - 17 are dependent on claim 14, as amended, and, thus, are also not anticipated by any of the 4 references cited by the Examiner.

In view of the foregoing, Applicants respectfully request the Examiner to withdraw the rejections to claims 14-17 under 35 U.S.C. § 102 (b)/(e).

CONCLUSION

Applicants have also added new claims 18 – 23. Support is provided by paragraphs [0026], [0033] - [0036] in the specification.

Applicants believe that all claims pending, including claims 14 - 23, are now in condition for allowance so such action is earnestly solicited at the earliest possible date.